

THE FIGHTING 45

Newsletter of HMS DEFENDER

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DEFENDER HOSTS ROYALTY TO MARK BICENTENARY

Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, today attended an event aboard Britain's HMS Defender as part of the 200th anniversary celebrations of Bahrain-UK relations.

His Royal Highness the Deputy King emphasised that the Bahrain-UK relationship is built on mutual respect and a shared pursuit of safety, stability and prosperity for both nations. His Royal Highness also noted the relevance of marking the bicentenary celebrations aboard the impressive HMS Defender as both countries look forward to the opening of Britain's HMS Juffair Naval Base later in the year.

In his remarks, His Royal Highness highlighted that Bahrain and the UK hold a shared history and partnership that has continuously sought to protect the values that both countries hold dear.

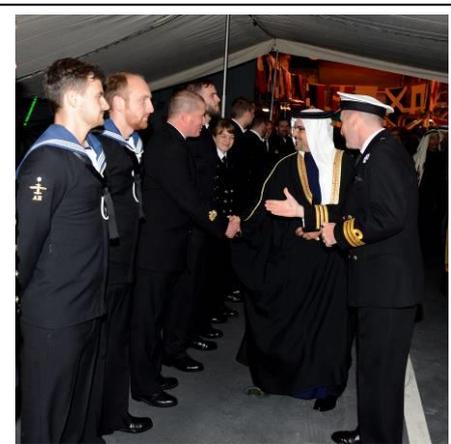
Charity Update

DEFENDER has so far raised:

£1,278.78

We are still aiming to raise £10,000 by the end of deployment, with many more charity fundraisers in the pipeline onboard. If you would like to help at home, please contact the RPO on:

HMSDFND-Exec-RNPoliceSectHead@mod.uk





BOWLED OVER!

A winning start for the DEFENDER Cricket Team

By ETME Kemsley.

HMS DEFENDER's cricket team made their debut appearance on 24th January against a team from the British embassy in Muscat. The match was 20 overs and it was decided that the home side would bat first.

A strong start with the bat allowed the home side some 40 runs in the first six or seven overs before a breakthrough from LH Tetaur put our first wicket on the scoreboard with a deviant spinner nicking the off stump. From there some more good bowling and a string of fielding successes slowed the run rate and LET Connell added a few more wickets. 20 overs later the hosts finished on 142.

Time for Defender to show their stuff; opening the batting at No.1 was none other than our Captain ET(ME) Kohler Cadmore and PO(SA) Brennan. Within two balls the runs were flowing and 2 overs later our Captain retired on an unbeaten 30 from 12 balls. In came the Big Rig, ET(ME) Simons, ready to hurl the bat around a bit. A dubious decision from the umpire several balls later saw the fall of PO Brennan's wicket for LBW. Undeterred ET Simons powered on to retire for 30 after only 15 balls.

Next to the crease were LH Hutchins and Navs, LH Hutchinson was a bit more respectful of the hosts bowlers, knocking 2's and singles at will but again reaching 30 to retire. Up steps leading wicket taker LET Connell for his turn with the bat, taking runs at will until an awful mishap saw him stumped and out.

In came the LH Tetaur to try and see off the last of the required runs. After a few boundaries and a string of runs the chase was completed with LH Tetaur hitting the ball through covers for 4.

The 143 runs needed to win was achieved in less than 13 overs and meant success for the DEFENDER cricket team in their first match.

Sailor of the Month

DEFENDER's Welfare Fund is sponsoring a 'Sailor of the Month' prize to recognise the outstanding achievements and professionalism of the ship's company. Each month every department nominates their best performing member and the final winner is picked by the XO and presented with a cheque for £100. So far the worth winners have been:

November: LSC Smith and SC Anderson of the Logistics Department

December: NA Irvine of the Warfare Department

January: CPO Carrington, CPO Hamlyn, PO Pollard, and ET Oxley of the Weapon Engineering Department.



COMOPS ON OPS

HMS DEFENDER hosted a special visit by Rear Admiral Tarrant (COMOPS) during her busy deployment on OP KIPION.

The visit fell during a busy period of Air Command and Control operations in the Arabian Gulf, working with the USS HARRY S TRUMAN and the FS CHARLES DE GAULLE Carrier Strike Groups.

It offered DEFENDER a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the work of the Type 45 Destroyer at sea. Fully integrated into coalition air operations over Iraq and Syria, as the Royal Navy continues to shape the operational employment of QEC and her escorting units, DEFENDER's team were able to brief the admiral on the complexities of carrier strike operations, and begin the process of feeding the high levels of expertise into the future of the Royal Navy.